

THE GARDEN ISLAND

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C. C. HOPPER, MANAGER

In case a special session of the Legislature is called the first matter to receive attention should and probably will be, a reconsideration of the Teachers' Schedule.

The November term of the Circuit Court of the Fifth Circuit will convene by Hon. Judge Hardy tomorrow morning. The docket is larger than the last and some interesting cases are to be tried.

The failure to secure jurors in the McNamara trial is not a surprise as the particulars in the deed which the brothers are charged with committing, have had such publicity that few there are within the bounds of the States who have not learned enough concerning the case to cause them to form an opinion either pro or con.

Should yellow fever get a foothold in Honolulu, there is no doubt that the Board of Health would be able to successfully manage to stamp it out. However individuals who have objected to destroying their mosquito breeders, would do well to ponder awhile on the impossibility of successfully mixing silliness with common sense and an appreciative regard for the safety of the community in which they reside.

Those responsible for survey of the Hanalei Bay for the new wharf, certainly understood just what was wanted as the troubled condition of the water within the last few days has shown. As the survey was made during a perfect calm, it was difficult to know without a perfect knowledge of the bay just where to run the line. Now if the Board of Public Works will get a riggle on, it might yet be possible to complete the wharf before the continual rough weather sets in.

The revolutionary leader in China undoubtedly struck the right one when he issued that order compelling all his followers to sever their queues. Besides an ingenious diplomatic move, it is said that the affair is looked upon by the Chinese Government forces as being too "qued" for anything like safety.

"Why children, our room is so nice and quiet, that I really think we might hear a cough-drop," said a prominent teacher in one of the lower grades the other day. "May I let the class hear the water-fall?" continued the witty school marm. "Please Miss Blank" piped up an observing little tot, "more better we hear one dew-drop." "No can do," came from another source, and the tinkle of the recess bell rescued the teacher from a contest of wits a continuation of which would have proven the youngsters winners by big odds.

"Promotions without additional monetary consideration," says a prominent subscriber, "can only be realized when a fellow dies and is promoted to heaven."

The teachers' schedule committee slightly varies from this view, as indicated by the numerous promotions among the teaching staff of the Territory. A body of men who deliberately affix their signatures to a law whereby a last year's Normal graduate might step into a position at a salary equal to that of an experienced teacher, is certainly far from being on the right road to "heavenly promotion."

THERE may be no graft in the administration of the Department of Public Works, but there are things connected with the Hanalei wharf contract which would be improved by an explanation. For instance the failure to advertise for bids in a local paper, thereby doing as little as possible to aid local contractors in competing for the work. If the Board of Public Works is so very sensitive as to criticism of its administration, it could do much to prevent further injury to its sensitiveness by "delivering the goods" in due time and doing away with this everlastingly mystifying method which naturally creates a feeling of dissatisfaction with the Public. Again, a public official is responsible to the people and if such official is so satisfied with himself as to feel above criticism, it doesn't necessarily follow that others should share his opinion. Kauai stands ready to back a clean administration, and will challenge any other.

We will hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may.

ELSEWHERE in this issue is to be found a communication from "Small farmer," in which a severe cuff-down is administered to ye editor, due to an article on "Diversified farming," appearing in our last issue. Among his various charges is to be found one referring to our not possessing the progressive spirit usually found in a successful paper, etc. We will view his charges as of no consequence, and pass on to a suggestion of a policy which we think would work satisfactorily both to "small farmers" and planters alike. First of all, our correspondent has sized us all wrong in regard to our ideas on small farming. We favor small farming, most emphatically, but when we say "small farming" we mean a farm of say thirty acres, twenty-five of which at least should be planted in cane, the rest to be used for pasture, garden and building purposes.

Our reason for suggesting cane is that it is without doubt, the surest and most profitable crop known to the islands to-day. To further illustrate our views, let us take a trip through the states and in so doing, investigate the prevailing crops in different sections and states. In Missouri, for instance, farmers plant the bulk of the farm in corn. In Minnesota they plant all but a small acreage in wheat, because wheat is their staple crop. They, in each instance, plant a small vegetable garden which produces vegetables for their present and future needs; they keep a few pigs, a cow or so and raise a few chickens, all on the few acres not devoted to the main crop upon which they must depend for paying taxes and putting aside something for rainy days.

Now another point is this: if vegetable raising could be done with

such enormous profits, would not these same states, which are within an hour's ride of the best markets of the world, plant the bulk of their land in vegetables instead of the standard crops? Does not this argument apply to the sugar-cane industry in Hawaii? There is this difference—the vegetables raised in Hawaii are inferior to those imported. Again, our potatoes are put on the market and are hard sellers at two and three cents, while imported potatoes, sell at four cents per pound. It is also a known fact (tho' sad it is) that our home-grown spuds have not the keeping qualities that are possessed by the imported potatoes which is another draw-back to growing them on a large scale here.

As to the policy of the majority of plantations, there is not one of them but would be perfectly willing to assist the small planter in raising cane and to give him a liberal price for it at the mill. Some are doing this at present, with very satisfactory results to planters and plantations alike. Let the government kick the present land policy over the pail and present homesteads of not less than thirty acres and in addition to this get water turned in on them. Show the people that we really wish settlers and give them a chance to make a living and to lay away something for a rainy day and there will be no difficulty in securing a class of labor which is so eagerly sought and so vitally necessary to our sugar interests. What can a man do on a five-acre lot? Under the present conditions—those under which Starret will dilly-dally and try to fool the people—we will say that one hundred men take land in one vicinity and that Uncle Sam opens up a water system for these hopeless farmers. Bye-and-bye, the question of who should have water first, will result in a squabble which will probably culminate in the entire settlement wanting it at the same time, and in the mean-time the valuable crops of onions, potatoes, etc., are burning up and the experts who have gotten these unfortunates to fritter their time and money away in this manner, could very likely be located in some other part of the world, lecturing on successful diversified farming in Hawaii.

But how different would the situation be, were these same men provided with homes of from 30 to 40 acres each, with all but a few acres planted to a crop that has made Hawaii what it is; a crop to which the city of Honolulu to-day as well as every other important center of these islands—owes its very existence; a crop which makes the maintenance of the Honolulu Iron Works—a firm which feeds thousands of our Hawaiian families year in and year out—necessary; a crop which amounted in the last year to \$52,000,000. This crop, as we all well know, is sugar-cane. Let the experts brawl their heads off; the diversified farmer advocate turn (i) up and preach onions, potatoes, etc., from beet-tops, but any one who has a reasonable amount of common sense will see the advantage of planting a sure crop, over that of following the advice of an expert whose real knowledge of the conditions here wouldn't last him over night.



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